GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3702
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
PRICES OF PULSES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the high prices of pulses in the open market has adversely affected the per capita availability of pulses ;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The steps taken by the Government to make available pulses at reasonable rates to weaker section of the society ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The per capita availability of pulses, primarily dependent upon production and population is placed at 29.1 gms. per day in 2002-03 as compared to 35.4 gms. per day in 2001-02. The Wholesale Price Index (1993-94 = 100) for Pulses for the year ended on 31st July, 2004 declined by 0.5% compared to a decline of 3.3% and 6.5% in the corresponding previous two years respectively. This reflects the increase in availability of pulses through imports.

(c): Implementation of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize is expected to boost production and productivity of pulses, thereby making available pulses at reasonable rates to all, including weaker sections. In view of the domestic supply-demand gap, pulses are imported to ensure adequate supply at reasonable prices.